

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 030500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 405

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 1481

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US, CVIS, ETRD

SUBJECT: SAUDI CONCERNS AT ANTI-SAUDI CAMPAIGN IN THE UNITED STATES

REF: A) JIDDA 1482 (NOTAL) B) JIDDA 1469 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SPOKESMAN SAYS SAG MODERATION OF ARAB
BOYCOTT HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT ARABS
CANNOT NOW ACT UNDER U.S. PRESSURE; SAG RESERVES
RIGHT TO DETERMINE OWN VISA POLICIES TOWARDS JEWS
AND OTHERS; SAUDIS WOULD APPRECIATE SOME PUBLIC
RECOGNITION FROM USG ABOUT ITS RESPONSIBLE POSI-
TION ON OPEC AND OTHER MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. ABD AL-RAHMAN MANSURI, ACTING MINISTER OF
STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CALLED ME TO THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY (MARCH 2) AND "SPEAKING ON
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INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE KING AND THE COUNCIL OF

MINISTERS," GAVE ME ESSENTIALLY THE SAME LECTURE
I HAD RECEIVED EARLIER FROM OTHER SAUDI OFFICIALS
(REF B).

2. THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL: THE ARABS WILL
DEAL WITH WHATEVER COUNTRY OR COMPANY THEY LIKE.
IT IS NOT FOR THE U.S. TO TELL THEM WHAT IS LEGAL
OR MORAL. I GAVE HIM OUR POSITION ON BOYCOTTS;
HE REPLIED HE WAS A TRAINED LAWYER AND THIS WAS AN
INCREDIBLE STATEMENT TO HEAR FROM AN AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR. OUR CURRENT BOYCOTT OF CUBA AND OUR
EARLIER BOYCOTT OF EASTERN EUROPE AND CHINA WERE
FAR MORE STRINGENT THAN THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF
ISRAEL.

3. HE SAID WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE ARABS
HAD BEEN ACTIVELY CONSIDERING A RELAXING OF THE
BOYCOTT RULES BUT THE CURRENT AMERICAN OUTBURST
MADE THAT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. I URGED HIM NOT TO
LET ANY OF THESE STATEMENTS DISTURB THEM; THE
ARAB'S POSITION IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE
HELPED GREATLY BY A RELAXATION OF THE BOYCOTT
RULES.

4. VISAS FOR SAUDI ARABIA: HE SAID THAT ALL
BISAS FOR JEWS AND FOR NEWSMEN THEORETICALLY MUST
GO TO THE KING FOR APPROVAL ALTHOUGH, "AS YOU SHOULD
KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE" THERE ARE WAYS AROUND
THIS. HE REMINDED ME OF THE NUMBER OF TIMES I HAD
ASKED FOR VISAS FOR JEWS AND ASKED HOW MANY TIMES I
HAD BEEN REFUSED. (IT WAS ONCE; BUT I CHOSE NOT TO
ANSWER.) REFERING AGAIN TO HIS LEGAL BACKGROUND
HE SPOKE OF THE EXCESSIVELY RESTRICTIVE NATURE OF
U.S. VISA REGULATIONS. HE SAID HE WAS IN NO WAY
CRITICIZING THEM BUT JUST WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT
EVERY COUNTRY HAD ITS OWN LAWS AND PRACTICES, AND
SAUDI ARABIA WAS NOT GOING TO CHANGE ITS SOON.

5. CALL FOR MILITARY OCCUPATION OF SAUDI ARABIA:

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TOP MEMBERS OF THE SAG (BUT NOT THE KING) WERE
BEGINNING TO GET A BIT WORRIED ABOUT THE INCESSANT
CALL IN THE U.S. PRESS FOR OCCUPATION OF SAUDI
ARABIA, BY THE CHARACTERIZATION OF SAUDI ARABIA
AS AN "ENEMY," AND BY THE CRITICISM OF OUR MILITARY
COOPERATION. HE SAID "WE KNOW THIS IS A CAMPAIGN
CARRIED OUT BY ZIOISTS IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THESE

ARTICLES, IN THEMSELVES, COULD PROBABLY BE SUREVIVED.
WHAT WORRIED THE SAUDIS WAS THAT THESE ARTICLES HAD
BROUGHT FORTH NO STRONG DEFENSE OF SAUDI ARABIA BY
ANYONE IN THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION. NO ONE HAD
MENTIONED SAUDI ARABIA'S POSITION IN OPEC - MOST
RECENTLY IN VIENNA LAST WEEK. NO ONE HAD MENTIONED
THE U.S. TREASURY BILLS THE SAUDIS HAD BOUGHT AND
WOULD BUY; NO ONE MENTIONED HOW MUCH AMERICAN
COMPANIES - AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ARE PROFITING
THROUGH SALES OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EQUIPMENT TO
SAUDI ARABIA OR BY THE BUILDING PROGRAM IN THE
COUNTRY. HE ASKED IF IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE
TO HEAR ONE FAVORABLE WORD ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA FROM
WASHINGTON - PREFERABLY FROM PRESIDENT FORD
HIMSELF.

6. I SAID I WOULD PASS THE MESSAGE TO
WASHINGTON.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: A WORD OF APPRECIATION
OF SAUDI FRIENDSHIP FROM A HIGH OFFICIAL -
PRESIDENT FORD, IF POSSIBLE - STATED PUBLICLY.
AKINS

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